

CLAIMS:

1. A method of adding coins to cash drawers so that the cash drawers may be used by operators of cash registers, the method comprising the steps of:

- ✓ (a) maintaining an inventory of loose coins from a source thereof;
- 5 (b) determining a value of the loose coins in the inventory;
- (c) storing the value of the loose coins in the inventory in a computing device;
- ✓ (d) when a cash drawer is ready to be constructed or replenished, removing an amount of the loose coins from the inventory and placing the loose coins in the cash drawer;
- 10 (e) determining a value of the amount of loose coins removed from the inventory; and
- (f) determining an updated value of the loose coins remaining in the inventory and storing the updated value in the computing device so as to maintain an accurate count of the value of the loose coins in the inventory.

15 ✓ 2. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the step of storing the value of the amount of loose coins removed from the inventory in the computing device.

20 ✓ 3. The method as set forth in claim 1, the source of the loose coins being selected from the group consisting of: bags of loose coins purchased from a bank, loose coins retrieved from a vending machine; loose coins retrieved from a CRS machine, and loose coins removed from cash drawers after the cash drawers have been taken from cash registers at the end of shifts and/or break times.

25 ✓ 4. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (b) including the step of weighing the loose coins to determine the value of the loose coins in the inventory.

30 ✓ 5. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (b) including the step of sorting the loose coins to determine the value of the loose coins in the inventory.

✓ 6. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (e) including the step of weighing the loose coins to determine the value of the loose coins removed from the inventory.

5 ✓ 7. The method as set forth in claim 1, step (e) including the step of sorting and counting the loose coins to determine the value of the loose coins removed from the inventory.

✓ 8. The method as set forth in claim 1, the inventory of loose coins
10 including several denominations of loose coins.

✓ 9. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the steps of:
storing in the computing device a target value of loose coins that should be
added to the cash drawer;
15 prompting, with a display coupled with the computing device, an operator to place
an amount of loose coins in the cash drawer equal to or greater than the
target value.

10. A method of reconciling coins in cash register cash drawers comprising the steps of:

✓ (a) removing coins from a first cash drawer and placing the coins in a second, initially empty cash drawer;

5 ✓ (b) weighing the coins that are added to the second cash drawer to count the coins;

10 ✓ (c) calculating a total amount of coins that were removed from the first cash drawer based on the weighing of the coins to reconcile the total amount of coins that were removed from the first cash drawer with sales information;

15 ✓ (d) if the first cash drawer did not contain enough coins to meet a target amount of coins, adding coins to the second cash drawer from an inventory of loose coins until the target amounts of coins have been added to the second cash drawer; and

20 ✓ (f) determining a value of the coins removed from the inventory and added to the second cash drawer.

25 ✓ 11. The method as set forth in claim 10, the inventory of loose coins being created from a source of loose coins selected from the group consisting of: bags of loose coins purchased from a bank, loose coins retrieved from a vending machine, loose coins retrieved from a CRS machine, and loose coins removed from cash drawers after the cash drawers have been taken from cash registers at the end of shifts and/or break times.

30 12. The method as set forth in claim 11, the inventory of loose coins including several denominations of loose coins.

13. A computer program stored on a computer-readable media for directing operation of a computer to operate as follows:

- (a) receiving and storing a value of an inventory of loose coins;
- (b) receiving and storing a target value of loose coins that should be added to a cash drawer;
- (c) prompting an operator to remove an amount of the loose coins from the inventory equal to or greater than the target value and to place the loose coins in a cash drawer;
- (d) receiving and storing a value of the amount of the loose coins removed from the inventory and placed in the cash drawer; and
- (e) determining an updated value of the loose coins remaining in the inventory after the amount of the loose coins have been removed from the inventory so as to maintain an accurate count of the value of the loose coins in the inventory.

14. The computer program as set forth in claim 13, the inventory of loose coins being created from a source of loose coins selected from the group consisting of: bags of loose coins purchased from a bank, loose coins retrieved from a vending machine, loose coins retrieved from a CRS machine, and loose coins removed from cash drawers after the cash drawers have been taken from cash registers at the end of shifts and/or break times.